WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Effect of rise in coal prices

302. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the steep rise in coal prices has its cascading effect in prices of steel and power sector in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the beneficiary common man is severely affected by the rise in prices of prime grade coal; and

(c) whether Government have received representation from the steel and power industry to reconsider the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COALAND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Power sector and steel sector are major consumers of coal. Any increase in price of coal leads to increase in their cost of generation/production. It is estimated that the recent increase in coal prices by CIL would have an impact of less than 6 paise on the cost of generation of 1 unit of electricity and presuming the average price of steel as Rs. 25,500/- per tonne, the impact on steel would be less than 2%.

(c) No, Sir.

Recommendations of World Bank regarding extraction of Coal, Oil and Gas

303. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Extractive Industry Review of the World Bank has made some recommendations with regard to extraction of coal, oil and gas;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the position of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COALAND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The review recommended the following after a case study from Parej East Project of Central Coalfields Limited executed under Coal Sector Environment and Social Mitigation Project (CSESMP):—

* Viable livelihoods need to be restored to the- affected people, indigenous land titles need to be established and given to the

people, and health, education and water amenities need to be addressed by the project management; livelihood need to be restored in a fully participatory and consultative manner.

* Compensation must be fair and just, and fully negotiated and agreed upon by the affected people.

* Rehabilitation of the mine sites must be effected immediately.

Livelihood of the affected people is being restored in fully participatory and consultative manner. Resettlement and rehabilitation is being done also in consultation with the affected people, NGOs etc. Due compensation for shifting etc. is being paid to all affected people. House plot is provided at resettlement sites (RS) to affected families or cash compensation is paid in lieu of house plot to the affected families who opt to settle outside the R.S. School and dispensary buildings are being provided at resettlement sites. Proper water amenities are also being provided.

Status at Parej East-

Resettlement

Total project affected families to be resettled	—	405
Resettled till date	—	295
Remaining to be resettled	—	110*

*(Resettlement of 87 families will be required after March-06 and 23 families will be resettled by Dec'04)

Relocation entitlement and compensation have been paid to all shifted families.

Income Generation

Income generation activities were extended all eligible project affected persons (PAP) to restore their livelihood. This includes provision of company jobs, deployment as Contractor's labour. Training to develop skill for self employment etc.

No. of PAPs who were earning in 1997 (beginning of ESMP)	—	564
No. of PAPs whose earning increased from 1997 to 2000	—	370
No. of PAPs whose earning remains same in 1997 and 2000	—	121
No. of PAPs whose earning decreased in 2000 from 1997 level	—	73

Out of the above 73 PAPs, the nominee of 10 PAPs have got employment against loss of land. 6 PAPs expired and 6 PAPs have received compensation but still cultivating their land as mining activities have not yet been taken up there.

Copper Reserves in Uttaranchal

†304. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the locations of copper reserves in Uttaranchal and the quantum thereof;

(b) whether any scheme for commercial exploitation of the said copper reserves has been formulated by Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COALAND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Geological Survey of India (GSI) while carrying out preliminary investigations/explorations for base metals, (copper, lead and zinc) has reported a reserve of 1.14 million tonnes at Askot, district Pithoragarh, 1.41 million tonnes at Amtiargad, and 0.39 million tonnes at Chamri (Kwanu), district Dehradun in Uttaranchal. However, no deposit of economic importance have been reported.

(b) and (c) Mineral Concessions are granted by the State Governments under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder. As per the National Mineral Policy 1993, the exploration and exploitation of these minerals has been thrown open to private investment and therefore commercial exploitation of minerals take place as per economic viability of the mineral.

Setting up of Non-coking coal washeries by C.I.L.

305. SHRI DATTAMEGHE: Will the Minister of COALAND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. has taken any steps to set up non-coking coal washeries within the jurisdiction of each subsidiary coal company of Coal India Ltd; in view of increasing likely demand of non-coking coal because of Government's plan to increase power generating capacity in the next decade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.